Update on POLAR2018

XXXVI SCAR Biennial Meeting / IASC Meeting and the Open Science Conference
15 – 27 June 2018, Davos, Switzerland
Executive Summary

Title: POLAR 2018
XXXVI SCAR Biennial Meeting / IASC Meeting and the Open Science Conference

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Introduction/ Background: Please refer to the extended summary on page 2 of this document.

Important Issues or Factors: The role, tasks and deadlines of a joint scientific committee of SCAR and IASC should be clarified as soon as possible.

Recommendations/Actions and Justification: It is suggested by the LOC that SCAR (as well as IASC) may install a group of (total) 9-10 people who form the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC), which should be specified latest at the SCAR XXXV Conference in Malaysia in 2016. Of this committee it is expected that by December 2016 the general theme, session topics and session chairs have been defined and been communicated to the LOC.

Expected Benefits/Outcomes: Reply to LOC – Scientific Programme Committee

Partners: IASC, LOC, Scientific Programme Committee (to be founded)

Budget Implications: not yet available
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Extended Summary

In August 2014 the proposal for a combined SCAR and IASC event, put forward by the Swiss Committee on Polar and High Altitude Research, was accepted. The meetings and the Open Science Conference will be held in Davos, Switzerland in June 2018, hosted by the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, and its Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF. The following paragraphs give an outline of the current state of the organization.

Location Davos:

The event will be held in Davos, situated in the Eastern Swiss Alps, on an altitude of 1560 m asl. It can be reached by train from Zurich airport in 2.5 hours; there is the option to arrange a train ticket with a discount through the Congress organisation. Davos has a long history of hosting large international conferences, and it is known both for winter and summer tourism, offering all amenities of a city while being an attractive mountain resort with stunning scenery. Further information: www.davos.ch

Conference Facilities:

The Local Organizing Committee works in close contact with the administrative staff from Davos Congress. The contracts for the necessary facilities to accommodate business and satellite meetings, the Open Science Conference and the Delegates meetings have been signed. The conditions and details regarding the participant registration procedures (including travel and visa support as well as registration payments and on-site registration support) are still being negotiated. Further details regarding the conference facilities will be arranged in due time. The catering for coffee breaks, ice breaker, conference and delegates’ dinner is being organized with Davos Congress as well. Social activities, as far as they are non-scientific, will be discussed with the Davos Tourism Organisation. Further information: www.davoscongress.ch

Abstract Handling:

Abstract handling, notifications, session and meeting scheduling and e-proceedings will be handled by the conference manager, with German company pharma service software and support. They know SCAR from an earlier meeting (Bremen) and have worked closely with the conference manager for DACA-13, an IUGG event held in Davos in 2013. Further information: www.pharmaservice.de

Website:

The website of POLAR2018 is online since April 2015, it is being developed and maintained by the conference manager. Further information: www.polar2018.org

Budget:

The budget details, including catering, events and excursions, are currently being worked out, based on SCAR’s Host Guidelines for Organizers and on previous experiences, both from SCAR and other conferences.

Organizational details:

There is a draft on who will be involved in which part of the organisation, as well as specifying, how the different committees will be cooperating. It is suggested that the SPC is chaired by a member of the LOC
(Martin Schneebeli) to ensure smooth communications. The highest commitment can be expected from the LOC, which includes representatives from the host institution (chair: Michael Lehning, Konrad Steffen, conference manager: Anja Schilling Hoyle), from Swiss Academia as well as representatives from SCAR and IACS. Regular (online or real) meetings will be suggested in due time. The data and document exchange will function through Dropbox, coordinated by the conference manager.

**Satellite meetings:**
A number of organizations is likely to hold meetings during/before/after the OSC, among them CliC and APECS. As Switzerland is not (yet) a member of COMNAP, the AGM cannot be held in Davos.

**Timeline:**
This is to give an outline of some of the more important deadlines and dates. A more detailed timeline, including specific tasks and involved groups will be available, together with a project management plan, by the end of 2015.

- **March 2016**  
  IASC Fairbanks – determine IASC members for POLAR’s scientific committee
- **August 2016**  
  SCAR Malaysia – determine SCAR members for POLAR’s scientific committee
- **December 2016**  
  Finalised session descriptions and session chairs from SCP communicated to LOC
- **March 2017**  
  Session descriptions available online
- **July 2017**  
  Start of abstract submission
- **December 2017**  
  End of abstract submission
- **January 2018**  
  Acceptance notification
- **January 2018**  
  Registration opens
- **June 2018**  
  Conference OSC